however, recommended that it did not see any need for change in the existing provisions concerning UPSC or other Public Service Commissions or any enactment. The said Commission has recommended that healthy conventions may be developed.

**Vacancies in Central Government Services**

3070. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there are number of vacancies to be filled up in Central Government services;

(b) if so, when would these position be filled up to reduce unemployment crisis to some extent;

(c) whether there is any idea with Government to relax maximum age bar to enter into Central Government services with the view of providing opportunities to age barred unemployed youth; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The requirement of recruitment is worked out by the respective Ministries/Departments and recruitment is made through the prescribed channels by them; hence, the information regarding the number of vacancies is not centrally maintained.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to relax the maximum age limit for entry into Central Government services.

**BPL families in Orissa**

3071. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the income norms or methodology to determine people living Below Poverty Line;

(b) whether it differs from State to State;

(c) if so, the lowest and the highest income norm for BPL with the name of the states;

(d) whether this BPLs are proposed to be altered for the purpose of allocation of funds and food;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the number of families living Below Poverty Line in Orissa and the Central help rendered to bring down this figure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Planning Commission, based on the recommendations of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee), uses State-specific poverty lines in order to estimate the incidence of poverty. These State-wise poverty lines are derived from the national level poverty lines, using state-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials. The national poverty lines are expressed as monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs.49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The national poverty line at 1999-2000 prices is monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs.327.56 in rural areas and Rs.454.11 in urban areas.

(b) The consumption basket of goods and services is same for all the States but this basket is evaluated at States, prices. Because of difference in prices of commodities in different States, the poverty lines differ from State to State.

(c) In 1999-2000, the poverty line in rural areas is lowest in Andhra Pradesh with Rs. 262.94 per person per month and highest in Kerala with Rs. 374.79 per person per month; in urban areas, the poverty line is lowest in Assam with Rs. 343.99 per person per month and highest in Maharashtra with Rs. 539.71 per person per month.

(d) There is no such proposal at the moment.

(e) In view of (d) above, does not arise.

(f) Based on the data from the latest large sample survey of the 55th Round on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National

Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), 169.09 lakh persons (47.15 per cent of the population) live below poverty line in Orissa in 1999-2000. The estimate of number of families living Below Poverty Line is not available.

In addition to the on-going programmes of the State Government and Central Schemes for poverty alleviation and employment generation, Special Central Assistance of Rs. 100 crore has been allocated under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana for the Special Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa.

**Creation of job opportunities in U.P.**

3072. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take effective measures to create job opportunities for educated unemployed youths through setting up of industries and small scale industries in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Union Government is implementing a scheme under the name "Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana" (PMRY) for creating self-employment opportunities through setting up of business and industries for educated youth in the country including Uttar Pradesh. The Office of the Development Commissioner for Small Scale Industries implements this scheme.

**Slashing of KBK grant for Orissa**

3073. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports captioned "Centre may slash KBK grant" in Orissa as reported in the Bhubaneswar New Indian Express dated the 16th September, 2002; and

(b) if so, the extent of such cut down and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.